

**PATENT**  
**(5181-59700/P4788)**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application No.: 09/740,542

Filed: December 18, 2000

Inventor(s):

John H. Howard

David Robinson

Randall D. Rettberg

Title: Direct Access from Client  
to Storage Device

§ Examiner: Gerezgiher, Yemane M.

§ Group/Art Unit: 2144

§ Atty. Dkt. No: 5181-59700

§  
§ I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with  
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§ date indicated below.

§  
§ Lawrence J. Merkel

§ Name of Registered Representative

§  
§ [Signature]

§ January 21, 2005

§ Date

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicant requests consideration of ☒ the references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 and/or ☐ the additional information identified below in paragraph 3.

☒ A copy of each required reference listed on the Form PTO-1449 is enclosed.

☐ The references listed on the Form PTO-1449 were previously cited in application serial no. \_\_\_\_\_ to which the captioned application is seeking priority under 35 U.S.C. §120; therefore, a copy of each reference is not enclosed.

1. This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

- a. ☐ within 3 months of the filing date of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under § 1.53(d);
- ☐ within 3 months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in § 1.491 in an International application;
- ☐ before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits; or
- ☒ before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under § 1.114.
- b. ☐ after the events of above paragraph 1a and prior to the mailing date of a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance, and thus: ☐ the

certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, or ☐ a fee of \$180.00 is enclosed.

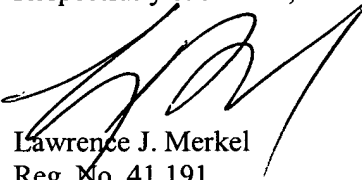
- c. ☐ after the mailing date of a final Office Action or a Notice of Allowance and prior to payment of the issue fee, and thus: the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided and a fee of \$180.00 is enclosed.
2. It is hereby certified:
- ☐ that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three (3) months prior to the filing of the Statement; or
- ☐ that no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in § 1.56 (c) more than three (3) months prior to the filing of the Statement.
- ☐ that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application and that this communication was not received by any individual designated in § 1.56(c) more than thirty (30) days prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement;
3. ☐ Consideration of the following additional information (including any co-pending or abandoned U.S. applications, prior uses and/or sales, etc.) is requested:
4. For each non-English language reference listed on the attached Form PTO-1449:
- ☐ reference is made to an English language translation submitted herewith, and/or
- ☐ reference is made to a foreign patent office search report (in the English language) submitted herewith, and/or
- ☐ reference is made to an English language translation of a foreign patent office search report submitted herewith, and/or
- ☐ reference is made to the concise explanation contained in the specification of the present application at page(s) \_\_\_\_\_, and/or
- ☐ reference is made to the concise explanation set forth below:
5. ☐ Applicant also offers the following comments for the Examiner's consideration:
6. ☐ Also enclosed is a copy of a foreign search report citing these references.
7. ☐ The listed documents were brought to the attention of the Applicant(s) after payment of the issue fee in the captioned case. The documents were cited in a

communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. Applicant(s) request this Information Disclosure Statement and attached Form PTO-1449 be placed in the file of the captioned application.

8. ☐ Applicant(s) requests that the Information Disclosure Statement and attached Form PTO-1449 and references, which are being filed before the grant of the patent and pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(i), be placed in the file of the captioned application.

If any required fees are missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 501505/5181-59700/LJM.

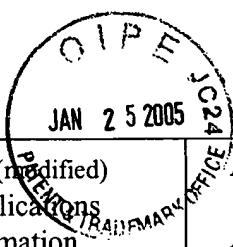
Respectfully submitted,



Lawrence J. Merkel  
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Agent for Applicant(s)

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Date: January 21, 2005

**Form PTO-1449** (modified)

List of Patents and Publications

For Applicant's Information

Disclosure Statement

(Use several sheets if necessary)

ATTY. DKT. NO. 5181-59700

APPLICANT: John H. Howard

FILING DATE: December 18, 2000

SERIAL NO. 09/740,542

GROUP: 2144

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

EXAM. INITIALS	REF. DES.	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB CLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

EXAM. INITIALS	REF. DES.	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB CLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO

**OTHER ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)**

	E1	R. Baird, "Distributed Information Storage Architecture," Twelfth IEEE Symposium on Mass Storage Systems, IEEE, 1993, pp. 145-155.

EXAMINER:

DATE CONSIDERED:

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to the patent owner.